

CLAIMS

1. A method for the handling of a recorded data stream and associated linear application, comprising:

5 commencing linear real-time playback of said data stream and commencing running of said linear application from a start point thereof;

 on entering a non-linear playback phase, stopping running of said application; and

 on recommencing of linear real-time playback of said data stream,
10 recommencing running of said linear application from said start point.

2. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said application is not stopped from running when playback of the recorded data stream enters a non-linear phase if a predetermined indication to this effect is detected in the
15 recorded data stream.

3. A method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said predetermined indication further identifies a subset of a larger number of possible non-linear playback activities as those for which the running of the application should not be stopped, with the running of the application being stopped when playback
20 of the data stream in said non-linear phase involves an activity outside said subset.

4. A method as claimed Claim 1, wherein the running of said
25 application requires loading and use of one or more resources, the method comprising checking prior to recommencing running as to whether said one or more resources are still loaded and, if so, using such pre-loaded resources.

5. A method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the use of said one or
30 more resources involves a verification procedure, which procedure is not repeated on recommencing running if it is determined that said one or more resources are still loaded.

6. A data playback apparatus for the handling of a recorded data stream and associated linear application, comprising:

5 storage means holding said recorded data stream and data defining said associated linear application;

a data stream playback stage operable to perform linear real-time and non-linear playback of said data stream from said storage means;

10 an application processing stage operable to read said data defining said associated linear application from said storage means and run said linear application from a start point thereof on commencement of linear real-time playback by said data stream playback stage;

15 the application processing stage being arranged, on entering of a non-linear playback phase by said data stream playback stage, to stop running of said application and on recommencing of linear real-time playback of said data stream, to recommence running of said linear application from said start point.

7. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said data stream playback stage is further operable to generate a menu display for output to a display device, the apparatus further comprising user operable input means for
20 identifying a selection from said menu to the apparatus.

8. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the application processing stage is operable to perform tasks other than stopping running of said application on the data stream playback stage entering said non-linear
25 playback phase, with the selection of one or more of such tasks being made available to a user via said menu.

9. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said data stream playback stage generates said menu on entering said non-linear phase.